

Question on Notice

No. 370

Asked on 10 May 2022

MR S BENNETT ASKED MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT AND MAIN ROADS (HON M BAILEY)—

QUESTION:

Will the Minister confirm the financial contribution made by the Queensland Government towards the construction of the multi-use conveyor at the Port of Bundaberg?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Burnett for the question.

I am pleased to advise the Palaszczuk Government—through its Government Owned Corporation, Gladstone Ports Corporation Limited (GPC)—is working collaboratively with Sugar Terminals Limited (STL) to deliver the Multi-use Conveyor project at the Port of Bundaberg, under the October 2020 Project Agreement signed between the Australian and Queensland governments, to facilitate the Palaszczuk Government's commitment to pass through agreed project funding linked to the Hinkler Regional Deal.

The project works involve constructing a conveyor system to connect port land and infrastructure to the existing sugar terminal and ship loading facilities to enable export of additional dry bulk commodities, and potentially enable the handling of bulk imports in the future. This project will support local jobs and enhance economic development for the greater Wide Bay Burnett area. Once this project is completed, the assets will be owned by Queenslanders because the Palaszczuk Government kept GPC in public hands.

It is important to note, effective operation of the Multi-use Conveyor also requires development of the port land and facilities adjacent to the conveyor system. This involves developing the storage and handling facilities for the dry bulk commodities, plus road and drainage upgrades necessary for transporting commodities. By virtue of its ongoing ownership of GPC and the Bundaberg port, the Palaszczuk Government is making a financial contribution towards delivery of these essential works to support the success of the Multi-use Conveyor project.

Subject to completion of all approvals and updates to the Project Agreement to pass through the additional federal funding, the Queensland Government's financial contribution to the Multi-use Conveyor project, through GPC, is estimated to be up to \$1.1 million, depending on the final project cost, with additional expenditure on ancillary works at the port—which are essential to the overall success of the project—being in excess of \$8 million (including \$1 million of direct funding for GPC which was announced in the 2021–22 State Budget for COVID-19 Recovery initiatives).

I acknowledge the Australian Government is contributing significant funding support for the Multi-use Conveyor project and commend the efforts of GPC, STL, key regional stakeholders and prospective users of the conveyor facility for their support for the project.